

P 222200Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

22 APR 76 05 39

TO RUEHLA/USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY 7499

INFO RUOMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 5429

RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 8396

RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 7576

RUOMAD/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0160

BT

UNCLAS STATE 125683 TOSEC 130153

FROM S/S 0 TO S/S-5 AND ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RFOR, OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY S.)

SUBJECT: GISCARD STATEMENT ON LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REUTER 813 DATED LINED NEW ORLEANS:

2. QUOTE: PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING SAID TONIGHT THAT FRANCE WAS READY TO SEND SEVERAL REGIMENTS OF TROOPS TO LEBANON TO KEEP THE PEACE THERE.

AND THE UNITED STATES FAVORED THE FRENCH PLAN, HE TOLD A PRESS RECEPTION HERE. BUT THE TROOPS WOULD ONLY LEAVE FOR LEBANON IF THE COUNTRY'S NEW PRESIDENT, TO BE INSTALLED SHORTLY, CALLED FOR THEM, PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING SAID.

HE SAID THAT NOT ONLY THE UNITED STATES BUT SYRIA, WHICH AT PRESENT HAS FORCES IN LEBANON ON A SECURITY MISSION, FAVORED THE IDEA OF A FRENCH PEACE-KEEPING FORCE.

THE SOVIET UNION HAD ALSO BEEN ADVISED OF FRANCE'S PLANS, HE TOLD REPORTERS AT THE RECEPTION.

HE SAID FRANCE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE PRESENT LEBANESE AUTHORITIES BUT THAT NO SPECIFIC REQUEST HAD

YET BEEN RECEIVED.

THE FRENCH TROOPS WOULD REMAIN UNDER FRENCH COMMAND AND WOULD NOT BE SHIPPED TO THE WAR-SHATTERED MIDDLE EAST NATION UNDER UNITED NATIONS AUSPICES, THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR.

ASKED HOW MANY TROOPS HE SAW BEING SENT, HE SAID: "'SOME REGIMENTS, MAYBE TWO OR THREE.'"

THE FRENCH LEADER GAVE THE RECEPTION FOR FRENCH REPORTERS AT THE END OF HIS SIX-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

FRANCE HAS SPECIAL TIES WITH LEBANON BECAUSE IT WAS ONCE A FRENCH PROTECTORATE PRIOR TO WORLD WAR II.

THE FRENCH PRESIDENT HAS SEVERAL TIMES INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO RESTORING PEACE IN LEBANON BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME HE CROOKED UP

DISP. No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/29 : LOC-HAK-183-4-37-4

S/S. 15

ACTION

INFO:

AMB
DCM
POL
ECON
USIS
ADMIN
CONS
O&R
B&F
DAC
MAAG
CSO
MSG

CHRON
RY

1662

Φ M.E.

UNCLASSIFIED